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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02110 161745 Z

71
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

NEA-10 GAC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 IO-12

RSR-01 /138 W
---------- 074627
R 161645 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7843
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2110

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR AL BU UR
SUBJ: SOVIET- BULGARIAN MILITARY COOPERATION

1. FONOFF OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR ALBANIA HAS SHARED WITH US RECENT CABLE FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY TIRANA REPORTING ON MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND UNIDENTIFIED HIGH OFFICIAL OF ALBANIAN FOREIGN OFFICE. REFERRING TO RUMORS OF SOVIET PLANS TO STRENGTHEN WARSAW PACT STRUCTURE, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED IF ALBANIANS HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS. FONOFF OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING NEW IN OVERALL WP CONTEXT BUT HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF INCREASED MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN USSR AND BULGARIA.

2. ACCORDING TO RUMORS PICKED UP BY ALBANIANS, MOSCOW AND SOFIA HAVE AGREED TO GREATER COORDINATION IN NAVAL MATTERS IN BLACK SEA AND MEDITERRANEAN. REPORTEDLY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO SEND A BULGARIAN SHIP TO JOIN SOVIET FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. ON LATTER POINT, ITALIAN FONOFF SOURCE SPECULATES THAT, IF ALBANIA REPORT TRUE, USSR MAY DESIRE TO GIVE WARSAW PACT CAST TO SOVIET MED FLEET FOR POSSIBLE USE IN CONNECTION WITH MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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